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TRAP-DEVICE PATENT
MADE FREE TO PUBLIC

New Invention Safeguards Small
Creatures and Increases
Trappers' Efficiency

A patent on a trap attachment to safeguard small mammals and birds and to make trapping more efficient has been granted to Albert M. Day, of the Bureau of Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture. The patent, No. 1940296, Serial No. 590865, dated December 19, 1933, is dedicated by Mr. Day to the free use of the public.

The new device, known as the Biological Survey pan spring, is already on the market, and the Bureau is using many of the springs in its cooperative work to control wolves, coyotes, and other animals that kill livestock and game. The Biological Survey pan spring is a small, detachable, thin steel spring to be inserted between the pan and the base of a standard steel trap. It has a slot about $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches long and five-eighths inch wide that fits snugly under the edges of the pan post of the trap. When the spring is pulled out as far as possible the tension is such that a weight of about 5 pounds will release a set trap. When it is pushed back to the apex of the slot the tripping weight is decreased to approximately 2 pounds.

As the weight an animal puts on one foot in walking is about one-third of its body weight, a trap equipped with one of the new springs can easily be adjusted

to prevent the capture of any of the lighter animals common in a given locality.

The use of the attachment also helps trappers, who lose time and effort when a trap in a carefully selected location is sprung by a rabbit, porcupine, fox, or other small and comparatively inoffensive creature. These unsought victims warn the predators away from the traps set for them, and thus a strategic trap site often becomes practically worthless for a long time.

"The use of traps provided with the new spring," says Stanley P. Young, in charge of predatory-animal and rodent control in the Bureau of Biological Survey, "will not only safeguard valuable forms of wild life but will also effect at least a 20 percent reduction in the time and labor of Federal hunters on the trail of stock-and game-killing predators."